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Dear Friend,

As you know, the topic of healthcare reform is being debated in local coffee shops, community centers and homes across America. We absolutely need to lower healthcare costs for consumers and provide access to insurance for those that don't have it. Doing so will protect not only those individuals lacking coverage, but also the hospitals in our region that lose millions of dollars every year by treating the uninsured. We must be sure that healthcare reform provides you with a choice among doctors and health plans and the ability to keep everything the same if you are happy with your current plan.

I understand this is not about just passing any healthcare bill; it is about passing the best possible healthcare bill to ensure all of our families have access to quality, affordable care while also being responsible with our spending. That is why I was part of a coalition of Democrats who forced Congress to slow down consideration of a healthcare reform bill so that representatives would be able to go back to their district to discuss the topic with their constituents.

I have been able to do just that with so many of you and I will continue to discuss healthcare reform openly and honestly across the 24th Congressional District. Over the past few weeks, I have travelled across the district to talk to stakeholders and experts in the healthcare field to make sure I have as much information as possible before voting on such an important piece of legislation.

To continue the discussion on healthcare reform, I plan to host a number of town hall meetings to allow constituents to make comments and ask questions as part of a healthy and civilized discourse. My first town hall meeting is this Wednesday at MVCC. Full details of the event are below:

**Date:** Wednesday, August 19th, 2009

**Time:** 4:00pm – 5:30pm

**Location:** Mohawk Valley Community College – IT Theater  
1101 Sherman Drive Utica, NY

If you are unable to join me, I will be holding several more town hall meetings, and I will be sure to inform you of the date, time and location as soon as that information is available.

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In the meantime, I want to hear from you. Please follow the link below to share your healthcare story or tell me what changes you want to see made to our healthcare system.

Click Here to Share Your Story  
or Thoughts on Healthcare Reform

[http://www.arcuri.house.gov/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=6:we-are-volunteers&catid=49:front-page-issues](http://www.arcuri.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=6:we-are-volunteers&catid=49:front-page-issues)

I am excited for the opportunity to interact with you and get your feedback about our nation's healthcare system. I look forward to meeting with many of you in the coming weeks and appreciate your attention to this important topic.

Sincerely:



MICHAEL ARCURI  
Member of Congress

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If you wish to contact me, please do so at <http://arcuri.house.gov>. Please do NOT reply to this message.

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